

Psychiatry Digest

September 18, 2020

From the desk of Nick Kates...

This Digest includes details of a number of upcoming events, as our academic year gets into full swing.

We are still accepting applications for our upcoming **Leadership Training Program**. If you currently hold or are planning to take on a leadership role of any kind you will find this program extremely helpful with plenty of practical advice. Details of the program and how to apply can be found [here](#) and the closing date for applications has been extended to **September 24th**. Thanks to Michael Amlung, Lindsey George and Sid Stacey, who have led the redesign and implementation of the Program.

And I look forward to seeing you at our **Department meeting on Wednesday**, when we will welcome new faculty, catch up on some of the things that have happened over the summer, but primarily focus on our plans for the coming year.

Our Department has recently achieved a unique National Leadership Trifecta. **Heather McNeely** has just been appointed as Chair of COPCE (Council of Psychiatric Continuing Education) - congratulations Heather - which means members of our Department now chair Canada's three major bodies coordinating psychiatric education in our 17 medical schools. In addition to Heather, **JoAnn Corey** is the co-Chair of COPE (Coordinators of Psychiatric Education) and **Vanessa Lentz** is the Chair of COUPE (Canadian Organization of Undergraduate Psychiatric Education).

A very happy new year to all our department members who will be celebrating Rosh Hashana this weekend.

And this short video shows what can happen when you let your dog watch an Arsenal game - [video](#).

Nick

COVID News and Updates



ultimately supporting future strategies and policies around the adverse effects of the pandemic.

Kathy Georgiades (PI), together with co-investigators **Peter Szatmari, Charlotte Waddell, Harriet MacMillan, Stelios Georgiades, Roberto Sassi, Nick Kates, Ellen Lipman, Margaret McKinnon, Magdalena Janus, Eric Duku, Laura Duncan, Seamus O'Byrne** and **Amanda Sim** recently received \$575,645 in funding over two years from the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund to study the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of children and their families,

Jennifer Couturier received \$100,000 in CIHR funding over 18 months for her project entitled, *"Adapting and adopting highly specialized pediatric eating disorder treatment to virtual care: Implementation research for the COVID-19 context and beyond"*.



Emily Mackillop was one of the senior authors on a paper entitled, *"You can't touch this": delivery of inpatient neuropsychological assessment in the era of COVID-19 and beyond*", which was published in the Clinical Neuropsychologist journal. **Christina Gojmerac, Jelena King, Heather McNeely** as well as current and former psychology residents and fellows also contributed to the paper. Full article [here](#).



Andrea Gonzalez spoke to the **CBC** and CHML radio about a new McMaster report that shows nearly 40 per cent of parents and caregivers had symptoms of depression during the COVID-19 lockdown. Andrea also participated in a panel discussion, *"Will the kids be okay"*, on TVO's The Agenda about the emotional toll that COVID is taking on children and youth. View video [here](#). She also spoke to CBC and CHCH

TV about the results of the Ontario Parent Survey.



Michael Boyle and **Laura Duncan** wrote an opinion piece, *"Experimental studies needed to inform policies to reduce the spread of COVID-19"*, that was published in the Spectator. Full story [here](#).



A new **COVID Assessment Centre** has opened at St. Joe's West 5th campus and is based in the Bariatric Clinic on level 0. Hours of operation are 4:30-7:30pm, Monday to Friday, by appointment only.

Department News

Congratulations to...



Andrea Gonzalez who was appointed as the new **Canada Research Chair in Family Health and Preventive Interventions (Tier 2)**. Her work focuses on how different biological, social and other factors affect parenting, and the subsequent effect on childhood development.



Terry Bennett who is the recipient of this year's Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Naomi Rae Grant Award. Naomi was a former member of our department and the award is presented annually to a member who has done creative, innovative, seminal work on an aspect of community intervention, consultation, or prevention.



Bianca Pfaffenseller, Postdoctoral Research Fellow under the supervision of **Flavio Kapczinski**, who was recently awarded the *Postdoctoral Fellow Outstanding Achievement Award from the 2020 Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Plenary*. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of a trainee during their postdoctoral fellowship.

Taiane Cardoso, postdoctoral research fellow under the supervision of **Flavio Kapczinski**, who received a three-year CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship Award for her study, *"Clinical trajectories of patients recently diagnosed with major depressive disorder: a prospective cohort study"*. Taiane is also the recipient of a Mitacs Accelerate Program, a program



designed to help awardees expand their research, develop their skills, and gain valuable experience as they pursue their careers. She will be working in a project aiming to differentiate patients with mood disorders from healthy controls using vocal biomarkers, with our industry partner [Winterlight labs](#).

Evan Weizenberg and his wife Talia on the arrival of their second child, Leo, on September 3rd.

Andrew Nicholson and **Stelios Georgiades**, both of whom have been approved as supervisors in the MiNDS graduate program.

Media News



Harriet MacMillan did a professional practice piece for the Royal College, entitled "*Training clinicians to recognize and respond to family violence*", based on the work of VEGA which provides on line resources to assist clinicians in identifying and responding to family violence. Read more [here](#).

Research News



Our 3rd Annual Research & Scholarship Marketplace is taking place, virtually, on **Wednesday, October 28th** from 5:00-7:00pm. More details to follow.

Education News



This year's **Department Education Day** is taking place, virtually, on **Wednesday, November 25th** and Sonia Anand will be this year's speaker. This year's theme is, "*Implicit Bias in Education and Evaluation*". More details to follow.

Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Information

Our Department's Anti-Black Racism Task Force, led by **Suzanne Archie** and **Bev Pindar-Donick** will be meeting this coming **Wednesday at 11:00am**. If you are interested in attending the group and haven't already signed up can you let Bev and Suzanne know, and also **Jennifer MacDonnell** (jemacdo@mcmaster.ca) who will send you the link.

The **Faculty's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC)** is actively searching for learners as members at large and Working Group participants. More information can be found [here](#). If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the EDIAC or a working group, please email facultyaffairs@mcmaster.ca

Other Events

Dana Waldern, staff member in our Mood Disorders Program, will be participating in this year's "*Run for Women*", hosted by Shoppers Drug Mart, and taking place on **September 27th**. All funds raised will go towards women's mental health programs at St. Joe's. If you wish to donate or participate, please click [here](#).

The **Suicide Prevention Community Council of Hamilton** is organizing a virtual 5k walk or run to support city-wide suicide prevention work in Hamilton. This year's event is the 8th annual *Running for Rachael* (named in honour of Sid Stacey's daughter) and will take

place on **Sunday, September 27th** at 9:00am. To register or learn more, visit the SPCCH website [here](#).



The St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation Mental Health Breakfast is being held on **Wednesday, October 7th from 8:00-9:00am** and will be held virtually. This year's keynote speaker is Steven Page, former lead singer and songwriter with Barenaked Ladies. There is no charge for this year's event, but registration is required. For more information or to register, please click [here](#).

Corrections from last Digest

In my last Digest, the names of two co-investigators were incorrectly named or omitted. **David Streiner** (not Meir Steiner) was a co-PI on Ryan Van Lieshout's CIHR grant and in addition to **Andrea Gonzalez**, **Harriet Macmillan** is also a lead investigator on a study that was featured on the front page of the Hamilton Spectator on the impact of lockdown on the mental health of parents. Apologies to David and Harriet for this error.

Stay Connected



The Department recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnabe and Haudenosaunee nations as part of the Upper Canada Treaty, and within the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Covenant.